

Home Small Group Lesson
Despised for our Salvation
Isaiah 49

Start It Up

- **Opening Icebreaker:**

*Describe the most crowded room you've ever been in. What was going on? Why were people gathered? Were they all there for the same reason? How did you feel?

Talk it Over

- **Sermon in a Sentence:**

- *God sends the Servant,* (v.1-7)
- *...who brings salvation,* (v.8-21)
- *...and worldwide triumph.* (v.22-26)

- Which part of the sermon impacted you, gave insight, challenged you, encouraged you or helped give direction to life?
- One of the most remarkable parts about Is. 49 is that even though the Servant (Jesus) brings salvation, He is deeply despised and abhorred. Did you ever despise the Lord? In your opinion, why do people despise or reject the Lord? Anyone in your family do that?
- Read Isaiah 49:4, which gives voice to how the Servant feels about rejection.
 - What strikes you about Jesus' words here? From what you know about Jesus' ministry, what would cause Him to be discouraged?
 - In v.4, what does Jesus do with discouragement? How does he get perspective?
 - Describe a time/season of life you felt rejected or deeply discouraged. Is there anything that helped give perspective?
- Read Isaiah 49:14 where people feel forgotten by the Lord. How does the Lord encourage them? Do you ever feel forgotten by God? What causes you to feel abandoned? How would you comfort someone who feels forgotten by God?
- The Lord says in Is. 49:16 "*I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.*" Read John 20:24-29. Why do you think Jesus keeps the scars? How does it feel knowing that the risen Savior will bear scars on His palms forever because of you and I?

Pray it Over:

- Give God praise for one aspect of what Jesus accomplished on the cross for you.
- Pray for your pastors tonight. Ministers often feel discouragement. Pray by name for your pastors, asking God to encourage them.
- Pray in pairs – especially for group members who feel discouraged or bereaved.
- Pray for people in your life who despise Jesus. Pray that they come to faith.
- Trust the Lord with your future. Surrender to Him. And look ahead to the day when "*all flesh shall know that I am the Lord your Savior and your Redeemer.*"